

Dear County Council,

I am opposed to any type of vaccine passports even though I am vaccinated. Here are my reasons:

1. They provide a false sense of security and do not change behavior. The county is over 85% vaccinated yet we are seeing rising counts. Why? Because omicron is spreading regardless of vaccination status and those who were socializing are still socializing even if they have the sniffles. Omicron is 2.7 times more likely to affect those that are vaccinated and 3.7 more likely to affect those with a booster: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/omicron-evades-immunity-better-than-delta-danish-study-finds-2022-01-03/>
2. If current vaccinations stopped spread, this county would have herd immunity by now. Do we? No. The virus continues to spread – policies around vaccinations will not stop a respiratory virus from spreading because the vaccine products do not provide sterilizing immunity. Even Mr. Elrich admitted this on the MCPS Community meeting on January 12, 2022 given his 12th day of COVID symptoms.
3. We are putting our young people in a precarious position for enforcement. Let's be honest, business owners will not be enforcing this, but their workers will be. There is a possibility that someone will be quite aggressive in trying to enter an establishment, potentially causing harm to someone that is simply "checking their documents."
4. We must utilize the precautionary principle when it comes to our children. The risk to children is very, very low and to force them to get an untested product is not logical. <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/> This is a new type of technology and we have no idea on long-term safety. If parents want to vaccinate, it should be their choice and not force by the county. Again, the product is not sterilizing and SARS-CoV-2 is not a childhood disease.
5. Let's talk about early treatment. What are you doing to setup early treatment options for those with SARS-CoV-2? Discussing this would be the sensible thing to do given that you cannot CONTROL a respiratory virus, but you can help to MANAGE it.
6. You will lose business to Virginia. Governor Youngkin is already setting policies that will allow businesses and families to thrive. It's only a hop, skip and a jump away.

I ask that you set aside politics and put some critical thought into approaching this. Upon analyzing the issue, you will see that this approach does absolutely nothing to control spread. And isn't that what you are trying to achieve?

Thank you,
Margaret Stoklosa